(6) Provision should be made for the Medical officers being given a course of training in the Ayurvedic system of treatment.

(7) Quack allopathic treatment, prevailing largely in Travancore, should be prevented altogether. The Durbar Physician should be invested with the power of bringing such men to book. The Presidencies of Bengal, Bombay and Madras had passed laws on the subject. A similar law should be passed in Travancore also.

(8) Itinerant dispensaries should be established, so that the people who were living in rural parts might be benefited.

(9) If the Government found it difficult to raise the Budget grant, the Member suggested the following measures to increase the allotment for medicines :—

(*a*) The department was overstaffed. For the expenditure of medicines worth Rs. 46,000 there was a staff absorbing Rs. 2,77,256 in the shape of pay. The Member proposed that the present staff might be reduced and their pay and designation modified, thereby saving about Rs. 36,000 yearly.

(*b*) Certain common and simple medicines could be prepared at the Trivandrum Medical stores, instead of importing them from foreign markets at prohibitive cost. That would save a considerable amount.

(*c*) Hill stations, such as Peermade and Devicolam, did not require highly paid Medical officers, who had to be given large sums in the shape of hill allowances. Hospital Assistants should be quite sufficient for such places.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

106. Hardships experienced by the people of Vilavankode in the matter of medical relief.

Mr. N. Sankaranarayana Pillai (Member, Vilavankode taluk) said that the people of the taluk were subject to frequent attacks of malarial fever and other epidemic diseases, that there was no medical institution in the taluk and that the Government themselves had recognised that want and had deputed special medical officers to the taluk periodically. The repeated prayers of the people and the several representations made in the Assembly on the subject had not been so far favourably considered. The people were still persistent in their request and it was with their unanimous approval that the Member brought up the very same subject at the present session of the Assembly also. The people were generally agriculturists and were poor. They could not afford to go to distant places for medical aid and the result was that many premature deaths took place in the taluk. The Mission Hospital at Marthandam managed by Christian Evangelists did not fully meet all their requirements.

Regarding the Vydiasala at the place, the Member said that the physician was not a *qualified* man, although he received a grant of Rs. 10 every month.

Dewan.—Are you sure that the physician is not qualified ?

Member.—Yes, Sir. He has been getting the grant for the past 6 or 7 years.

Dewan.—How far is Parassala from Neyyattinkarai ?

Member.—6 miles. Kuzhithurai also is 6 miles from Parassala.

Regarding the hospital at Parassala, the Member said that the *post mortem* cases at Kuzhithurai were being held in the Parassala Hospital and that the Government were spending money on that account unnecessarily.

The Member, therefore, prayed that a Hospital or at least a dispensary be established in the centre of the taluk, or, if that was not practicable, that the Hospital at Parassala be shifted to Kuzhithurai.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

107. The Kaniyar community and the Native system of medicine.

Mr. M. K. Padmanabha Kaniyar (Member, Nominated) said that by profession the Kaniyars were astrologers and native *Vydians* and that,

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though the Government spent enormous amounts of money for maintaining hospitals and Vydiasalas, the poor people in the villages mainly depended upon the drugs and pills administered by Kaniyar physicians for curing their diseases. There were 72 Vydiasalas in the State which were receiving grants from the Government. Some of the physicians in charge of them were qualified; others had no qualifications. The attempts of qualified men from his community to get grants from the Government proved unsuccessful in many cases. Duly qualified physicians, who spent money from their pocket and had stored sufficient quantity of good drugs in their Vydiasalas also did not succeed in getting any help from the Government. There were instances in which grants that were being given to thoroughly qualified and competent physicians were suddenly taken away from them and transferred to novices. The request of the Kaniyar community for better encouragement to qualified physicians among them was legitimate. The members of his community were also not able to get any Government appointments. In consideration of the above facts, the Member prayed that applications for grants from duly qualified Kaniyar physicians might receive favourable and sympathetic consideration at the hands of the Government.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

VII. EDUCATION.

108. Education.

Mr. M. K. Narayana Pillai B. A., Bar-at-Law. (Member, Trivandrum taluk) expressed his gratification at Primary education being made free and hoped that it would be made compulsory too in course of time, though the Government had decided otherwise now. What he was going to submit was that not only should education be literary as now but also that it should be directed to industrial and practical channels. It was a matter for satisfaction that an expert who knew the language of the country and who was acknowledged to be a gentleman of great energy and enthusiasm had been deputed to promote Elementary education. It was equally praiseworthy that steps had been taken to divert the course of Elementary education into industrial channels. The appointment of Dr. S. G. Barker to conduct an Industrial Survey was looked upon as another noteworthy step towards the attainment of that end. Agriculture was being introduced more and more into the lower classes in Elementary schools. All that showed that Government were anxious to give a decided and much-desired turn to the system of literary education under which some manifest evils had flowed.

The text-books in Elementary schools ought to be replaced by a better set. They ought to contain lessons on health, gentleness, justice and elementary science. They were not suitable for the children of tender age for whom they were prescribed, because some of them were too high in respect of style and contained deep philosophy which young children could not understand. It was not desirable that little children should be taught abstruse subjects of philosophy. What was required was that they should be taught elementary science, so that they might understand things around them in Nature. Another requirement was that there should be an Elementary school for each *kara*. So far as Higher Grade Elementary schools were concerned, what was required was that agricultural and industrial subjects—practical as well as theoretical—should be introduced into those schools. There should be both literary and industrial sides in every Higher Grade Elementary school or there should be two sets of schools—literary and industrial. In the schools under the first category, Manual Training should be introduced, so as to afford, to the hand and the eye, the necessary training. English should also be taught in the last three classes, *viz.*, 5, 6, and 7. It was desirable to teach a little Sanskrit also, as, without a fair knowledge of Sanskrit, Malayalam could not be satisfactorily understood by the teacher in a Vernacular school. Sufficient attention was not being paid to the teaching of Travancore History, though, no doubt, a little of it was being taught in the fourth class. Coming to the Industrial branch, the pupils should be taught such local industries as coir-making, mat-making, &c. with compulsory English. Just like the Elementary School Leaving Certificate, there should be a certificate issued to the student who left the technical branch or school, as the case might be. If he be so inclined, the holder of the latter certificate should

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